

Compensation For Crime Victims

Every state in the country operates a program to help pay for some of the expenses resulting from crimes involving violence or abuse. Victims of assault, rape, domestic violence, child abuse, drunk driving, and other crimes involving personal injury may qualify for this assistance. Families of murder victims also may be eligible for financial help. These programs are called crime victim compensation programs. The following is information about the Wisconsin Crime Victim Compensation Program.

Victims of crime under State, Federal, military, and tribal jurisdiction are eligible to apply for compensation. A conviction of the offender is not required. The program will pay for certain expenses not covered by insurance or another public benefit program. **Crimes solely involving theft or damage to property are not covered.**

Who May Get Financial Help?

Those eligible for crime victim compensation include:

- * An innocent victim who suffers injury from a crime.
- * A dependant or legal representative of an innocent victim who has been killed as a result of a crime.
- * A person who is injured while aiding a crime victim or helping a police officer.
- * A person who suffers a reaction from the death of a family or household member.
- Persons who are injured in automobile accidents caused by drunk drivers.

What Are Some of the Eligibility Requirements?

Victims are required to :

- * Be innocent of any criminal activity or misconduct leading to the victim's injury or death.
- * Report the crime to a law enforcement agency within 5 days of the crime.
- * Cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of the crime.
- * File an application with the compensation program within 1 year from the date of the crime.
- * Be current with court ordered child support or maintenance payments.

What Costs May Be Paid?

The following expenses **may** be covered if they are not paid for by insurance or by another public benefit program, and if they result directly from the crime:

- * Medical and hospital care, pharmacy and mental health counseling expenses.
- * Lost earnings due to the crime-related injuries.
- * Loss of support for dependents of a crime victim who is killed.
- * Funeral and burial expenses up to \$2,000.
- * Reasonable replacement costs of clothing or bedding held as evidence by the police, prosecutor or crime lab - up to \$300.00.
- * Reasonable and necessary costs for securing and cleaning a crime scene - up to \$1,000.
- * Cost of homemaker services.

What Costs Are Not Covered?

- * Property loss, theft and damage are usually not covered (unless damage is to eyeglasses, hearing aids, or other medically necessary devices).
- * Expenses paid for by other sources, such as any type of public or private health insurance, automobile insurance, disability insurance, or workers compensation are not covered.

How Can A Victim Apply?

Applications can be obtained from the compensation program or from police, prosecutors, or victim services agencies. Victims can seek help from victim service programs in completing the application. The application should be submitted to the compensation program as soon as possible. The compensation program will review the application to determine eligibility and to decide what costs can be paid, and will notify the applicant of the program's decision.

To obtain an application form online, please go to:

<http://www.doj.state.wi.us/cvs/docs.asp>

If you have questions about the application call toll free: 1-800-446-6564